

Deadly Derek



Derek Harris, who scored after only two minutes when coming on as substitute during Wycombe Wanderers' 3-0 Isthmian League triumph over Boreham Wood on Saturday.

ALTHOUGH WYCOMBE Wanderers recorded their largest victory of the season on Tuesday night in the Isthmian League, they missed out on what could have been a six, seven or eight goal hammering of one of the poorest sides in the Premier Division.

Kingstonian, fielding a weakened side through injuries, will be the first to admit they were let off lightly while Wycombe might well rue this result when it comes to the end of the season and goal difference is all important.

It might seem a little harsh to criticise a side that wins 3-0 but Wanderers must know full well they should have been approaching double figures in this game. They were a class above the Surrey side and had so much of the ball in the second half it was almost embarrassing.

I agree with Blues manager John Reardon, who said after the game that this was a mediocre performance by his side.

In the first half, when Wanderers scored only once, Kingstonian managed to hide their deficiencies by hard work and a good deal of running. After the break, however, their weakness was severely exposed and they should have been buried beneath an avalanche of goals.

But Wanderers were never at their best. Their close control on an unusually bumpy pitch let them down on several occasions and the passing lacked its recent

accuracy. Also, especially in the second half, there seemed a lack of ideas between the midfield and front men which saw many attacks break down.

Still, there were three goals and good ones at that. Roger Day capped his home debut with a real beauty while Tony Horseman's effort wasn't far behind. Dylan Evans hit the third.

ONE CHANGE

Wanderers made one change from the side that won at Hendon, Peter Spittle coming in for the injured John Maskell. It wasn't long before Wycombe were inducing some terrible mistakes in the visitors' defence which seemed unsure of goalkeeper Barry Knife.

Quickly amassing three corners, Wycombe went ahead after 13 minutes. This was a fine move on the left between Bob Davies, Farouk Quraishi (I'm assured that's the right spelling!) and Mick Holfield. The latter shrugged off a tackle and squared the ball to Day, some 25 yards from goal. Roger strode up

and sent a precision drive high into the far corner of the net, leaving the goalkeeper rooted to his spot.

Evans should have made it two a minute later when he intercepted a poor back pass but Knife blocked the shot with his legs. This was another example of Kingstonian's desperately poor defence which looked likely to cave in at any moment.

The K's only chance of the half came after half an hour when Dave Dyer and former Wanderer Mick Sorenson both saw efforts blocked in a goalmouth scramble.

FRUSTRATING

So despite dominating the half, Wycombe went in after 45 minutes with only a single goal to show for their efforts. To my mind it was an ideal opportunity to give substitute Steve Pratt an extensive run-out but it was not to be. It must have been frustrating to see those Kingstonian weaknesses from the sub's bench.

Holfield sent a header clean across goal to start off the se-

cond half and soon afterwards Evans netted but was ruled off side. Wanderers also had a strong handball penalty appeal turned down by referee Sibley before the veteran Horseman made it 2-0 after 58 minutes. Holfield drilled over a corner and 'Rodger' came off the line to jack-knife a header into the corner of the net — a touch of vintage Horseman.

Holfield was held in full flight and Alan Phillips should have scored with a free header as Kingstonian began to tire. Unable to match their first half work rate, they looked there for the taking. But although Evans scored the third after 74 minutes Wanderers were never able to put concerted pressure on the shaky visitors' defence. Too often their matchwinner Holfield was left in acres of space on the wing.

Horseman showed his full repertoire of skills in the last hour — swerves, flicks and some superb passes — but distribution from midfield was erratic with Quraishi unable to find his previous good form. Graham Mackenzie linked well with the forwards but there was a tendency to over-elaborate when a simple pass would have brought better results. Instead, Wanderers took five passes to make a couple of yards' progress.

It was Horseman who laid on the third goal for Evans with a brilliant turn and cross on the left. Evans seemed to lose possession but his speed served him well as he beat a defender and drove past Knife.

Davies might have had a spectacular fourth in the closing stages when he sent a swerving drive towards the top corner but saw Knife pull off the save of the night to tip the ball over the top.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, P. Bidsaye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, R. Davies, G. Mackenzie, R. Day, F. Quraishi, A. Horseman, D. Evans, M. Holfield. Sub S. Pratt (58th used).

KINGSTONIAN: B. Knife, T. Mahon, D. Dyer, I. Withers, G. Cooper, O. Vincent, G. B. Webb (23 mins), M. Sorensen, T. Smith, A. Rowbottom, M. Sorensen, S. Esslemont.

Referee: R. Sibley (Reading).
Half time: 1-0. **Goalscorers:** Day (13), Horseman (58), Evans (74).
Attendance: 1,000.

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Kingstonian 0 REPORT BY STUART EARP

Harris signs

DEREK HARRIS, the Southall centre-forward and last year's top goalscorer, has signed for Wycombe Wanderers. Blues manager John Reardon has been hoping to sign the former Wycombe player for some time and the deal eventually went through on Wednesday evening.

Harris was with Wycombe in the 1975-76 season when he played their first nine league matches before losing his place. Ironically he was 'found' another club, Southall, but his improvement in the last two years means that Wycombe have had to pay a fee for his services, believed to be around the £700 mark.

Mr Reardon is expected to

give a vote of confidence to the team that beat Kingston. The manager announced this week that Howard Kennedy had asked to be put on the transfer list along with Peter Spittle, the Blues' unsettled goalkeeper. Kennedy, who has been with Wanderers for several years, has been unable to re-establish a regular place this season.

Boreham Wood, who won last year's Division Two with a staggering 103 points, have won four and lost four of their league matches this season with victories over Slough, Tilbury, Leytonstone and Bishop's Cleeve. Latest result was Tuesday's 2-1 win at Leytonstone.